

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 162250Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7218

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2325

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S SON PREDICTS PROLONGED STATE OF SIEGE

1. IN COURSE OF LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS JUNE 12, CAPTAIN ANASTASIO (TACHITO) SOMOZA PORTOCARRERO DECLARED THAT STATE OF SIEGE MAY NOT END WITH INDICTMENTS BY MILITARY COURT OF INVESTIGATION OF 35 PRESENTLY ACCUSED, 17 OF WHOM ARE IN CUSTODY AWAITING COURT'S DECISION. CAPTAIN SOMOZA SAID THAT NATIONAL GUARD'S OFFICE OF NATIONAL SECURITY HAD UNEARTHED A COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF OPPOSITION LA PRENSA AND THE FSLN, AND THAT THE STATE OF SIEGE WOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL ALL THE RELEVANT EVIDENCE IS ASSEMBLED. HE ALSO STATED THAT UDEL PRESIDENT AND LA PRENSA DIRECTOR PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO WAS NOT IMPLICATED DIRECTLY IN THE ALLEGED TRANSGRESSIONS OF HIS STAFF.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS REPEATEDLY HINTED THAT THE LENGTH OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE NOW SEEMS TO BE TO RESTRAIN THE OPPOSITION'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET-- AN UNCENSORED LA PRENSA, WAS TIED TO THE PLODDING PROGRESS
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OF THE COURT OF INVESTIGATION. WITH THE END APPARENTLY IN

SIGHT, THE NONVIOLENT OPPOSITION HAS BEEN EAGERLY MAKING PLANS FOR A PRESUMABLY FREER POST-STATE OF SIEGE PERIOD. A PRO-
LONGATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE TO CONSIDER ENTIRELY NEW EVIDENCE AT THIS POINT WOULD DASH THESE HOPES, AND, BY
CASTING SERIOUS DOUBTS ON THE DEGREE OF OPEN POLITICAL COMPETITION WHICH THE REGIME IS WILLING TO TOLERATE, DISCREDIT
EFFORTS OF THE NONVIOLENT OPPOSITION. IT COULD RESULT, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY IN INCREASED BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT BY THE NON-
VIOLENT OPPOSITION BUT ALSO IN RAISING FRUSTRATION TO A NEW LEVEL WHERE THERE WOULD BE WIDER CALLS FOR
CLANDESTINE DIRECT ACTION AS THE ONLY WAY OF CHALLENGING THE REGIME.
SHELTON

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